

## PETITION

OF

WILLIAM PATTON AND OTHER CITIZENS OF NEW HAVEN, CONN.,

PRAYING

*For an investigation into the manner of the passage of the act of 1873  
demonetizing silver.*

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FEBRUARY 25, 1878.—Ordered to lie on the table and be printed.

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*To the Senate of the United States:*

The undersigned, citizens of New Haven, in the State of Connecticut, respectfully represent—

That, as citizens of the United States, they, in common with their loyal fellow-citizens, feel that the good name of this nation and of its government is a concern alike of Congress and of the people;

That a charge of ignorant and fraudulent legislation by the Congress in 1873 is everywhere spread abroad, professedly on the authority of certain statements made at pages 89, 90, volume 1, of the public document entitled "Report and accompanying documents of the United States monetary commission;" that the statements in the report referred to have been everywhere interpreted to mean that the American people were ignorantly made the victims of a conspiracy, and the two houses of Congress and the President alike the instruments of a national fraud. It is even patent that, during the late recess of Congress, a public and explicit declaration was put forth in print, under the name of one among the signers of the majority report ordered to be printed by the Senate, charging that "The law demonetizing silver \* \* \* was stolen through Congress by a set of conspirators."<sup>\*</sup>

Your petitioners would further represent that these opprobrious averments, although themselves obviously contrary to the most esteemed distinctive traits of the American people and their representatives, and although they have been contradicted over and over by varied and explicit testimony, yet continue to be treated, among the masses, as a matter of history, written in the Congressional proceedings; and consequently they must tend, if not effectually counteracted, to undermine the people's confidence in their own governmental institutions.

Wherefore your petitioners respectfully pray that it may please your honorable body to institute an investigation which shall authoritatively ascertain the facts in question concerning the act of 1873, referred to, which investigation, they would hope, could not but issue, when rigorously and impartially made, in removing the obloquy complained of

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<sup>\*</sup> The Independent, New York, December 20, page 2.

from our record and reputation as a people now and from our history in the future.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., *February 12, 1878.*

WM. PATTON.  
PAUL C. SKIFF.  
JULIUS SANFORD.  
THOS. H. PEASE.  
H. N. WHITTELEY.  
H. N. DAY.  
WM. G. ANDREWS.  
WM. L. KINGSLEY.  
NOAH PORTER.  
EDWIN HARWOOD.  
TIMOTHY DWIGHT.  
B. G. NORTHROP.  
W. D. WHITNEY.  
WM. GALE.  
H. A. NEWTON.  
W. G. SUMNER.